WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

	1.	A method	d for detection	ng the presenc	e of Hepatit	is C Virus		
	(HCV) RNA in a bio	logical sam	ple, said meth	nod comprising	• •			
5	(A)	performin	ig a reverse	transcription	reaction us	sing, as a		
	template, RNA der	ived from	said sample	e to produce	HCV-specif	fic reverse		
	transcription product	s;			••.			
	(B)	amplifyin	g said revers	e-transcription	products us	ing one or		
	more pairs of oligon	ucleotide p	orimers specif	fic for HCV to	produce HO	CV-specific		
10	amplification produc	ts,						
		wherein s	aid pairs are s	elected from th	e group cons	isting of:		
		(a) for	rward	prin	ner	5'-		
	CAGAAAGCGTCT	AGCCATC	GCGTTAGT	CA-3' (C69F28)	<seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>VO. 1> and</td></seq>	VO. 1> and		
	reverse primer							
15	5'-CGGTTCCGCAG	ACCACTA	ATGGCTCTC	C-3' (C133R26)	<seq id="" no<="" td=""><td></td></seq>			
		` '	rward	prin		5'-		
	GGGAGAGCCATA							
	reverse primer 5'-CG	GGGCAC'	rcgcaagc.	ACCCTATCA	-3' (C294R25) <seq ii<="" td=""></seq>		
	NO. 7>; and							
20		\'	rward	prin		5'-		
	GTGGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACAC-3 (C143F26) <seq 3="" id="" no.=""> and</seq>							
	reverse primer selecte	ed from the	group consist	ting of				
		(i)						
	GCAAGCACCCTA'			A-3' (C282R27)	SEQ ID N	O. 5>,		
25		(ii	•					
	CACTCGCAAGCA	CCCTATC	AGGCAGTA	L-3' (C287R27)	<seq id="" no<="" td=""><td>D. 6>; and</td></seq>	D. 6>; and		

detecting said amplification products,

(C)

wherein detection of said amplification products indicates the presence of HCV RNA in said sample.

- 2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using random oligonucleotide primers.
- 3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using one or more oligonucleotide primers having sequences corresponding to sequences in HCV RNA.

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4. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said amplifying is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of polymerase chain reaction, ligase chain reaction, strand displacement amplification, nucleic acid single base substitution, and transcription mediated amplification.

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5. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.

- 6. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- 7. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:
- 25 (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and

(b)

5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3'

(C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26); and wherein said probes comprise 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' 5 (c) (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said forward primer is (C69F28). A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said sample is 8. selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, saliva, and cerebrospinal fluid. 10 A method for amplifying Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) DNA, said 9. method comprising: performing a polymerase chain reaction on a DNA sample (A) containing HCV DNA using one or more pairs of oligonucleotide primers specific for HCV to produce HCV-specific amplification products, 15 wherein said pairs are selected from the group consisting of: primer forward (a) CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1> and reverse primer 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>;or 20 5'forward primer (b) GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25) <SEQ ID NO. 2> and reverse primer 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25) <SEQ ID NO. 7>; and 5'primer (c) forward 25 GTGGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACAC-3 (C143F26) <SEQ ID NO. 3> and a reverse primer selected from the group consisting of

(i)	5'.
	<i>-</i>

GCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTACCACA-3' (C282R27) < SEQ ID NO. 5>,

(ii) 5'-

CACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTA-3' (C287R27) <SEQ ID NO. 6>.

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- 10. A method as defined in claim 9, further comprising:
- (B) detecting said amplification products,
 wherein detection of said amplification products indicates the
 presence of HCV DNA in said sample.

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- 11. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said detecting comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.
- 12. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- 13. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and

(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26); and

wherein said probes comprise

(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said forward primer is (C69F28).

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- 14. A method for detecting the presence of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) RNA in a biological sample, said method comprising:
- (A) performing a reverse transcription reaction using as a template RNA derived from said sample to produce HCV-specific reverse transcription products;
- (B) amplifying said reverse-transcription products using a forward primer and a reverse primer to produce HCV-specific amplification products,

wherein said forward primer consists of the oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27) <SEQ ID NO. 8> and said reverse primer consists of the oligonucleotide 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3' (57R27) <SEQ ID NO. 9>; and

- (C) detecting said amplification products,
 wherein detection of said amplification products indicates the
 presence of HCV RNA in said sample.
- 15. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using random oligonucleotide primers.
- 16. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using one or more oligonucleotide primers having sequences corresponding to sequences in HCV RNA.
- 17. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said amplifying is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of polymerase chain reaction, ligase chain reaction, strand displacement amplification, nucleic acid single base substitution, and transcription mediated amplification.
- 18. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said detecting comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.

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- 19. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- 20. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said probes are selected from the group consisting of 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14> and 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>.
- 21. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, saliva, and cerebrospinal fluid.

22. A method for amplifying Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) DNA, said method comprising:

(A) performing a polymerase chain reaction on a DNA sample containing HCV DNA using a forward primer and a reverse primer to produce HCV-specific amplification products,

wherein said forward primer consists of the oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27) <SEQ ID NO. 8> and said reverse primer consists of the oligonucleotide 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3' (57R27) <SEQ ID NO. 9>.

- 23. A method as defined in claim 22, further comprising:
- (B) detecting said amplification products,

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wherein detection of said amplification products indicates the presence of HCV DNA in said sample.

- 24. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said detecting comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.
- 25. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- 26. A method as defined in claim 25, wherein said probes are selected from the group consisting of 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14> and 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>.
- 27. A method for detecting the presence of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) RNA in a biological sample, said method comprising:
- (A) performing a reverse transcription reaction using as a template RNA derived from said sample to produce HCV-specific reverse transcription products;
- (B) amplifying said reverse-transcription products using one or more pairs of 5' NCR oligonucleotide primers specific for HCV and one or more pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers to produce HCV-specific amplification products,

wherein said 5' NCR primer pairs are selected from the group consisting of:

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	(a)	forward		primer	5'-
	CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCC	ATGGCG	TTAGTA-3	3' (C69F28) <sec< td=""><td>) ID NO. 1> and</td></sec<>) ID NO. 1> and
	reverse primer				
	5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCA	CTATGG	CTCTC-3'	(C133R26) <seq< td=""><td>ID NO. 4>;or</td></seq<>	ID NO. 4>;or
5	(b)	forward		primer	5'-
	GGGAGAGCCATAGTGG	TCTGCG	GAA-3' (C	2131F25) <seq< td=""><td>ID NO. 2> and</td></seq<>	ID NO. 2> and
	reverse primer 5'-CGGGGC	CACTCGC	AAGCAC	CCTATCA-3' (C2	94R25) <seq id<="" td=""></seq>
	NO. 7>; and				
	(c)	forward		primer	5'-
10	GTGGTCTGCGGAACCG	GTGAGT	ACAC-3 (0	C143F26) <seq i<="" td=""><td>\mathbf{D} NO. 3> and a</td></seq>	\mathbf{D} NO. 3> and a
	reverse primer selected from	n the group	p consisting	of	
		(i) :	5'-		
	GCAAGCACCCTATCAG	GCAGTA	CCACA-3'	(C282R27) <seq< td=""><td>ID NO. 5>,</td></seq<>	ID NO. 5>,
		()	5'-		
15	CACTCGCAAGCACCCT				
					ucleotide primers
	-	-		_	gonucleotide 5'-
	GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGG	CCCTAG	rcacg-3'		
	•	onsisting	of	_	ucleotide 5'-
20	AGGCCAGTATCAGCAC				NO. 9>; and
	(C) detec			n products,	
					fication products
	indicates the presence of He	CV RNA i	n said samp	ole.	
25	•				rein said reverse
	transcription reaction is per	rformed us	ing random	oligonucleotide p	rimers.

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29. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using one or more oligonucleotide primers having sequences corresponding to sequences in HCV RNA.

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30. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said amplifying is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of polymerase chain reaction, ligase chain reaction, strand displacement amplification, nucleic acid single base substitution, and transcription mediated amplification.

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31. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said detecting comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.

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- 32. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- 33. A method as defined in claim 32, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of

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- (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and
- (b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26);

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wherein said probes comprise

(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28), and

wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group

consisting of 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (d) (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14>; and 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (e) 5 (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said sample is 34. selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, saliva, and cerebrospinal fluid. 10 A method for amplifying Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) DNA, said 35. method comprising: performing a polymerase chain reaction on a DNA sample (A) containing HCV DNA using one or more pairs of 5' NCR oligonucleotide primers 15 specific for HCV and one or more pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers to produce HCV-specific amplification products, wherein said 5' NCR primer pairs are selected from the group consisting of: 5'primer forward (a) 20 CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1> and reverse primer 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>;or 5'primer forward (b) GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25) <SEQ ID NO. 2> and 25 reverse primer 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25) <SEQ ID NO. 7>; and

5'-

		(c)	forward		prin	ner	5'-				
	GTGGTCTGCGGA	ACCG	GTGAGTA	CAC-3 (C	C143F26) <	SEQ ID N	O. 3> and a				
	reverse primer selected from the group consisting of										
			(i) 5'	_							
5	GCAAGCACCCTA	TCAG	GCAGTAC	CACA-3'	(C282R27)	<seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>1O. 5>,</td></seq>	1O. 5>,				
			(ii) 5'	-							
	CACTCGCAAGCA	CCCT.	ATCAGGC	AGTA-3'	(C287R27)	<seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>IO. 6>; and</td></seq>	IO. 6>; and				
			wherein	each of sa	id pairs of	3' NCR oliį	gonucleotide				
	primers comprises	a for	ward prin	ner consis	sting of t	he oligonu	cleotide 5'-				
10	GGTGGCTCCATC	TTAG	CCTAGT	CACG-3'	(1F27) <s< th=""><th>EQ ID NO</th><th>. 8> and a</th></s<>	EQ ID NO	. 8> and a				
	reverse primer	С	onsisting	of	the	oligonucleo	tide 5'-				
	AGGCCAGTATCA	GCAC	TCTCTGC	AGTC-3 (57R27) <si< td=""><td>EQ ID NO.</td><td>9>.</td></si<>	EQ ID NO.	9> .				
							•				
	36.	A me	thod as def	ined in cla	im 35, furtl	ner comprisi	ng:				
15	(B)	detec	ting said an	nplification	n products,						
		wher	ein detectio	on of said a	amplification	n products	indicates the				
	presence of HCV D	NA in	said sample								
		i									
	37.	A m	ethod as d	lefined in	claim 36,	wherein sa	id detecting				
20	comprises visualizin	g said	amplification	n products	by gel elec	trophoresis					
	38.	A m	ethod as d	lefined in	claim 36,	wherein sa	aid detecting				

using a colorimetric assay.

A method as defined in claim 38, wherein said probes **39**. comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or

more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products

	(a) 5	'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252
	25-PRB) <seq 13="" id="" no.=""> ar</seq>	ıd
	(b) 5	'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3'
	(C252-27-PRB) <seq id="" no.<="" td=""><td>12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25)</td></seq>	12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25)
5	or (C143F26);	
	wherein said pro	obes comprise
	(c) 5	'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3'
	(C96-22-PRB) <seq id="" no.<="" td=""><td>11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28)</td></seq>	11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28)
	and	
10	wherein said p	robes comprise a member selected from the group
	consisting of	
	(d) 5	'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3'
	(30PRB25) <seq 14="" id="" no.=""></seq>	; and
	(e) 5	'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3'
15	(32PRB25) <seq 15="" id="" no.=""></seq>	
	_	onucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
	ì	CGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28)
	<seq 1="" id="" no.="">.</seq>	75 4 T 4 CT C CT CT C C C A A 21 (C121F25)
20		CCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25)
	<seq 2="" id="" no.="">.</seq>	2000 + 4000CTC 4 CT 4 C 4 C 2 (C1/2F26)
		CGGAACCGGTGAGTACAC-3 (C143F26)
	<seq 3="" id="" no.="">.</seq>	10 A C A C C A C T A T C C C T C T C 2! (C 122 P 26)
		CAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26)
25	<seq 4="" id="" no.="">.</seq>	CCCTATCAGGCAGTACCACA-3' (C282R27)
		CCTATCAGGCAGTACCACA-3 (C2021C27)
	<seq 5="" id="" no.="">.</seq>	AGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTA-3' (C287R27)
	3°-CACICGCA	MUCACCCIAICAUUCAUIA-3 (C20/102/)

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<SEQ ID NO. 6>. 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25) <SEQ ID NO. 7>. 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27) <SEQ ID NO. 8>. 5 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27) <SEQ ID NO. 9>. 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11>. 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) 10 <SEQ ID NO. 12>. 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13>. 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14>. 15 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>. An HCV-specific amplification primer oligonucleotide 41. selected from the group consisting of: 20 5'-CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1>. 5'-GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25) <SEQ ID NO. 2>. 5'-GTGGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACAC-3 (C143F26) 25 <SEQ ID NO. 3>. 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>.

5'-GCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTACCACA-3' (C282R27) <SEQ ID NO. 5>. 5'-CACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTA-3' (C287R27) <SEQ ID NO. 6>. 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25) 5 <SEQ ID NO. 7>. 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27) <SEQ ID NO. 8>. 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27) <SEQ ID NO. 9>. 10 A probe comprising an oligonucleotide selected from the 42. group consisting of: 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11>. 15 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12>. 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13>. 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) 20 <SEQ ID NO. 14>. 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>. A kit for amplifying HCV DNA derived from HCV RNA, 43. 25 said kit comprising one or more pairs of 5' NCR oligonucleotide primers, wherein

said 5' NCR primer pairs are selected from the group consisting of:

		(a)	forward	primer	5'-
	CAGAAAGCGTCTA	AGCC/	ATGGCGTTAGT.	A-3' (C69F28) <seq< td=""><td>ID NO. 1> and</td></seq<>	ID NO. 1> and
	reverse primer				
	5'-CGGTTCCGCAG	ACCA	CTATGGCTCTC	-3' (C133R26) <seq i<="" td=""><td>D NO. 4>;</td></seq>	D NO. 4>;
5		(b)	forward	primer	5'-
	GGGAGAGCCATAG	GTGG	TCTGCGGAA-3'	(C131F25) <seq ii<="" td=""><td>) NO. 2> and</td></seq>) NO. 2> and
	reverse primer 5'-CGG	GGGC	ACTCGCAAGC	ACCCTATCA-3' (C294	4R25) <seq id<="" td=""></seq>
	NO. 7>; and				
		(c)	forward	primer	5'-
10	GTGGTCTGCGGAA	ACCG(GTGAGTACAC-3	(C143F26) <seq ii<="" td=""><td>NO.3$>$ and a</td></seq>	NO.3 $>$ and a
	reverse primer selecte				
			(i) 5'-		
	GCAAGCACCCTAT	CAG	GCAGTACCACA	-3' (C282R27) <seq i<="" td=""><td>D NO. 5>,</td></seq>	D NO. 5>,
			(ii) 5'-		
15	CACTCGCAAGCAC	CCCTA	ATCAGGCAGTA	-3' (C287R27) <seq i<="" td=""><td>D NO. 6>.</td></seq>	D NO. 6>.
	44.	A kit	as defined in clai	m 43, further comprisi	ing one or more
	pairs of 3' NCR olig	gonucl	eotide primers, w	herein each of said p	airs of 3' NCR
	<u> </u>	3		orward primer cons	
20	-			CCCTAGTCACG-3' (
	_		•	isting of the oligo	
	AGGCCAGTATCAG	GCAC'	TCTCTGCAGTC	-3 (57R27) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>IO. 9>:</td></seq>	IO. 9>:
	45.	A kit	as defined in clai	m 43, further compris	ing one or more
25	probes.				
	•		_		
	46.	A kit	as defined in clai	m 44, further compris	ing one or more
	probes.				

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	47. A kit as defined in claim 45, wherein said probes comprise a
	member selected from the group consisting of:
	(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-
5	25-PRB) <seq 13="" id="" no.=""> and</seq>
	(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3'
	(C252-27-PRB) <seq 12="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25)</seq>
	or (C143F26); and
	wherein said probes comprise
10	(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3'
	(C96-22-PRB) <seq 11="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28).</seq>
	to the transfer of the state of the second probes comprise a
	48. A kit as defined in claim 46, wherein said probes comprise a
	member selected from the group consisting of:
` 15	(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-
	25-PRB) <seq 13="" id="" no.=""> and</seq>
	(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3'
	(C252-27-PRB) <seq 12="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25)</seq>
	or (C143F26);
20	wherein said probes comprise
	(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3'
	(C96-22-PRB) <seq 11="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28);</seq>
	and
	wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group
25	consisting of
	(d) 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3'
	(30PRB25)
	<seq 14="" id="" no.="">; and</seq>

(e) 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3'

(32PRB25)

<SEQ ID NO. 15>.

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49. A kit as defined in claim 43, wherein said pair of 5' NCR primers consists of 5'-CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1> and 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>.

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50. A kit as defined in claim 43, wherein said pair of 5' NCR primers consists of 5'-GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25)<SEQ ID NO. 2> and 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25)<SEQ ID NO. 7>.

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51. A kit for amplifying HCV cDNA derived from HCV RNA, said kit comprising one or more pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers, wherein each of said pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers comprises a forward primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27)

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- <SEQ ID NO. 8> and a reverse primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27)<SEQ ID NO. 9>.
- 52. A kit as defined in claim 51, further comprising one or more probes.

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53. A kit as defined in claim 52, wherein said probes are selected from the group consisting of:

		(a)	5'-GCGGCTCAC	CGGACCTTTCACAGC	I A-3
	(30PRB25)				
	<seq 14="" id="" no.="">; an</seq>	d			
		(b)	5'-ATGCGGCTC	CACGGACCTTTCACAC	GC-3'
5	(32PRB25)				
	<seq 15="" id="" no.="">.</seq>				
-					
	54.	A kit	for detecting the	e presence of HCV DN	NA, said kit
	comprising one or mo	оге ра	irs of 5' NCR olig	gonucleotide primers, wh	erein said 5'
10	NCR primer pairs are	select	ed from the group	consisting of:	
		(a)	forward	primer	5'-
	CAGAAAGCGTCTA	GCC.	ATGGCGTTAGT	A-3' (C69F28) <seq id<="" td=""><td>NO. 1> and</td></seq>	NO. 1> and
	reverse primer				
	5'-CGGTTCCGCAGA	ACCA	CTATGGCTCTC	-3' (C133R26) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>IO. 4>;or</td></seq>	IO. 4>;or
15		(b)	forward	primer	5'-
	GGGAGAGCCATAC	TGG	TCTGCGGAA-3'	(C131F25) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>10. 2 > and</td></seq>	10. 2 > and
	reverse primer 5'-CGC	GGC	CACTCGCAAGC	ACCCTATCA-3' (C294R	25) <seq id<="" td=""></seq>
	NO. 7>, and				
		(c)	forward	primer	5'-
20	GTGGTCTGCGGAA	.CCG	GTGAGTACAC-3	(C143F26) <seq id="" no<="" td=""><td>O. 3> and a</td></seq>	O. 3> and a
	reverse primer selecte	d fron	n the group consist	ing of	
			(i) 5'-		
	GCAAGCACCCTAT	CAG	GCAGTACCACA	-3' (C282R27) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>1O. 5>,</td></seq>	1O. 5>,
			(ii) 5'-		
25	CACTCGCAAGCAC	CCT	ATCAGGCAGTA	-3' (C287R27) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>IO. 6>.</td></seq>	IO. 6>.
	55	A kit	as defined in clair	m 54, further comprising	one or more

pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers, wherein each of said pairs of 3' NCR

oligor	nucle	otide	ргі	mers	comprise	es a	forwa	rd p	rimer	COI	nsisting	of	the
oligor	nucle	otide	5'-G	GTGG	CTCCA	ГСТТ	AGCCC	TAG	TCAC	G-3'	(1F27)	<seq< td=""><td>ID</td></seq<>	ID
NO.	8>	and	a	reverse	e prim	er c	onsisting	g of	the	olig	gonucle	otide	5'-
AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27) <seq 9="" id="" no.="">.</seq>													

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- 56. A kit as defined in claim 54, further comprising one or more probes.
- 57. A kit as defined in claim 55, further comprising one or more probes.
 - 58. A kit as defined in claim 56, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 13> and
 - (C252-27-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26);

wherein said probes comprise

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- (c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28).
- 59. A kit as defined in claim 57, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 13> and

(C252-27-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26);

wherein said probes comprise

(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28); and

wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of

(d) 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3'

(30PRB25)

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<SEQ ID NO. 14>; and

(e) 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3'
(32PRB25)
<SEQ ID NO. 15>.

- 60. A kit as defined in claim 54, wherein said pair of 5' NCR primers consists of 5'-CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1> and 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>.
- 61. A kit as defined in claim 54, wherein said pair of 5' NCR primers consists of 5'-GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25)<SEQ ID NO. 2> and 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25)<SEQ ID NO. 7>.
- 62. A kit for detecting the presence of HCV RNA, said kit comprising one or more pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers, wherein each of

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said pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers comprises a forward primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27)<SEQ ID NO. 8> and a reverse primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27)<SEQ ID NO. 9>.

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- 63. A kit as defined in claim 62, further comprising one or more probes.
- 64. A kit as defined in claim 63, wherein said probes are selected from the group consisting of 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25)

<SEQ ID NO. 14> and 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>.